



## **Key Facts about Education, Employment and *School To Work***

### **School-Age Population**

- By 2005, the high school population will increase by nearly 30%, further bloating already overcrowded public schools.
- By September 1996, approximately 51.7 million students will be enrolled in elementary and high schools. Student enrollment is projected to surpass 55 million by 2002.
- Recent statistics collected by the U.S. Department of Education report that the national dropout rate for high school students averages 11%. Of students enrolled in four-year colleges, only about half graduate.

### **Workforce Trends Signal the Need for Change**

- In 1960, there were 5.1 workers per Social Security beneficiary. Today, the ratio is 3.3 workers per beneficiary and shrinking. Increased worker productivity is essential to the viability of the system.
- From 1950 to 1991, the number of professional and technical workers grew by 331%. More than one in four new jobs created between now and the year 2005 is likely to be professional or technical.

### **Employers Are Concerned**

- Fifty-six percent of employers say the skill requirements of their workers are increasing, and 57% report an increase in their worker training programs over the last three years.
- One out of every five workers was judged by employers to be not fully proficient at his or her job.
- Virtually all establishments provide either formal or informal training: 97% provide informal training, while 81% provide formal training.
- Only 15% of establishments take job applicants' grades into account in their hiring decisions. These businesses are more likely to employ workers with more than the average years of schooling and demand increased job skills and high-performance work practices.

### ***School To Work Grants Addressing Needs***

- In January 1994, all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia received ***School To Work*** State Development Grants ranging from \$200,000 to \$750,000.
- So far, 27 states have been awarded ***School To Work*** Implementation Grants totaling approximately \$204 million. The bulk of this money becomes subgrants to local partnerships.
- By June 1996, ***School To Work*** will have invested \$320 million in total grants (including direct grants to local partners and special grants to high-poverty areas).

*\* Statistics provided by the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Social Security Administration*

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